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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/717,296	11/19/2003	Davin C. Dillon	210121.491C8	8879
500	7590	12/12/2006		
SEED INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW GROUP PLLC 701 FIFTH AVE SUITE 5400 SEATTLE, WA 98104			EXAMINER STRZELECKA, TERESA E	
			ART UNIT 1637	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 12/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/717,296

Applicant(s)

DILLON ET AL.

Examiner

Teresa E. Strzelecka

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 September 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2 and 11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2 and 11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/11/03;9/2/05.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election of Group II (claims 2 and 11, SEQ ID NO: 307) in the reply filed on September 18, 2006 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).
2. Applicants traverse an objection to claim 9-13 and 17 as being of improper multiple dependent form because they are, Applicants argue, Markush-type claims. However, these claims are not Markush claims in the sense that all of the claimed compounds are totally unrelated to each other in terms of structure and function.
3. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Priority

4. Claims 2 and 11 are given no priority date, since the protein of SEQ ID NO: 307 was described in the instant application, therefore the priority date of these claims is the filing date of the instant application, November 19, 2003.

Information Disclosure Statement

5. The information disclosure statements (IDS) submitted on December 11, 2003 and September 2, 2005 are in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statements are being considered by the examiner.

Specification

6. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: the first paragraph does not contain updated information regarding the status of parent applications.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

7. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

8. Claims 2 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention lacks patentable utility.

The examiner is using the following definitions in evaluating the claims for utility.

"Specific" - A utility that is *specific* to the subject matter claimed. This contrasts with a *general* utility that would be applicable to the broad class of the invention.

"Substantial" - A utility that defines a "real world" use. Utilities that require or constitute carrying out further research to identify or reasonably confirm a "real world" context of use are not substantial utilities.

"Credible" - Credibility is assessed from the perspective of one of ordinary skill in the art in view of the disclosure and any other evidence of record that is probative of the applicant's assertions. That is, the assertion is an inherently unbelievable undertaking or involves implausible scientific principles.

"Well-established" - a specific, substantial, and credible utility which is well known, immediately apparent, or implied by the specification's disclosure of the properties of a material, alone or taken with the knowledge of one skilled in the art.

The claimed subject matter is not supported by a specific, substantial, and credible utility because the disclosed uses are generally applicable to broad classes of this subject matter. In addition, further characterization of the claimed subject matter would be required to identify or

reasonably confirm a real world use. The examiner does not find an adequate nexus between the evidence of record and the asserted properties of the claimed subject matter.

Polypeptide with SEQ ID NO: 307 is encoded by a polynucleotide with SEQ ID NO: 305 (page 16, line 6). In Example 1 (pages 102-107), Applicants explain that sequence was obtained from metastatic breast tumor library. No further information about the protein was provided, therefore, the function of the protein is unknown. In Example 10 (pages 116-118), Applicants examined the expression of a protein with SEQ ID NO: 307 by immunohistochemistry using samples from normal tissue, breast cancer tissue, liver, thyroid, tonsil and colon (Table 4, page 118). Even though the protein was expressed in 9 out of 10 breast cancer tissues, it was also present in 5 out of 5 normal breast tissues. Therefore these results contradict the notion that the presence of the protein with SEQ ID NO: 307 could be used for diagnostic purposes of detection of breast cancer.

The claimed polypeptide (SEQ ID NO: 307) is not supported by a specific asserted utility because the disclosed uses of the polypeptide are not specific and are generally applicable to a wide variety of polypeptides. The specification states that the polypeptides may be useful in preparation of antibodies (page 62, lines 27-29; page 63, lines 1-20), for stimulating T-cells (page 69, lines 10-28; page 70), or in therapeutic compositions (page 71). These are non-specific uses that are applicable to polypeptides in general and not particular or specific to the polypeptide being claimed.

Further, the claimed polypeptide compound is not supported by a substantial utility because no substantial utility has been established for the claimed subject matter. Similarly, the other listed and asserted utilities as summarized above or in the instant specification are neither substantial nor specific due to being generic in nature and applicable to a myriad of such compounds. Note, because the claimed invention is not supported by a specific and substantial asserted utility for the

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reasons set forth above, credibility has not been assessed. Neither the specification as filed nor any art of record discloses or suggests any property or activity for the protein compound such that another non-asserted utility would be well established for the compounds.

Applicants state in lines 10-15 of page 118 that the compositions described in the specification could be used for the therapy and diagnosis of cancer, particularly breast cancer. However, in order for a polypeptide to be useful for diagnosis of a disease, there must be a well-established or disclosed correlation or relationship between the claimed polypeptide and a disease or disorder. The presence of a polypeptide in tissue that is derived from cancer cells (in this case from breast cancer cells) is not sufficient for establishing a utility in diagnosis of disease in the absence of some information regarding a correlative or causal relationship between the expression of the protein and the disease. If a molecule is to be used as a surrogate for a disease state, some disease state must be identified in some way with the molecule. There must be some expression pattern that would allow the claimed polypeptide to be used in a diagnostic manner. Many proteins are expressed in normal tissues and diseased tissues. Therefore, one needs to know, e.g., that the claimed polypeptide is either present only in cancer tissue to the exclusion of normal tissue or is expressed in higher levels in diseased tissue compared to normal tissue (i.e. overexpression). Evidence of a differential expression might serve as a basis for use of the claimed polypeptide as a diagnostic for a disease. However, in the absence of any disclosed relationship between the claimed protein and any disease or disorder and the lack of any correlation between the claimed protein with any known disease or disorder, any information obtained from an expression profile would only serve as the basis for further research on the observation itself. "Congress intended that no patent be granted on a chemical compound whose sole 'utility' consists of its potential role as an object of

use-testing.” *Brenner*, 148 USPQ at 696. The disclosure does not present a substantial utility that would support the requirement of 35 U.S.C. §101.

Applicant should explicitly identify a specific, substantial, and credible utility for the claimed invention and establish a probative relation between any evidence of record and the originally disclosed properties of the claimed invention.

9. Claims 2 and 11 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. Specifically, since the claimed invention is not supported by either a specific asserted utility or a well established utility for the reasons set forth above, one skilled in the art clearly would not know how to use the claimed invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

10. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

11. Claims 2 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yue et al. (WO 01/90334 A2; cited in the IDS).

Regarding claim 2, Yue et al. teach a polypeptide with SEQ ID NO: 10, which is 100% identical to SEQ ID NO: 307 (page 10 and 11 of the sequence listing).

Regarding claim 11, Yue et al. teach compositions comprising the polypeptides (page 71, lines 32-34; page 72).

12. No claims are allowed.

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Teresa E. Strzelecka whose telephone number is (571) 272-0789. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Benzion can be reached on (571) 272-0782. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Teresa E Strzelecka
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1637

Teresa Strzelecka
12/7/06